Pass Creek Allotment

2003 Implementation Monitoring Evaluation

and

2004 Annual Operating Instructions

November 7, 2003

Summary

The Pass Creek Allotment Management Plan (2000-2005) was developed by a team consisting of representatives of the Forest Service, the Pass Creek Association, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to improve resource conditions on the Pass Creek Allotment. This plan requires that participants meet annually to 1) evaluate the success in implementing the plan, 2) identify actions to improve the management of the allotment, and 3) develop a grazing strategy for the following season. This report summarizes the results of this effort for the 2003 grazing season.

Table 1. Summary of the 2003 grazing season. (Total of 83 days actual use)

Order of Use	Unit Name	Number of Head	On Date	Off Date	AUM's	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actual End of Season Stubble Height	Use Exceeded
1	North Wet Creek Basin[3]		7/15			4	5	4	No
2	South Wet Creek Basin[3]	1280		8/16	1833	4	5	4	No
3	Mud Lake Southeast Pass Creek[2]		8/17			4	5	4	No
3	Twin Lakes[1]	1280		8/27	611	4	5	4	No
4	Southwest Pass Creek	1280	8/28	8/31	222	5	6	5	No
5	North Pass Creek	1280	9/01	9/05	277	4	5	4	No
6	Pine Creek[1]	1280	9/06	9/14	500	Wet Creek 4/Pine Creek 6	5/7	7/6	No
7	Upper Wet Creek	200	9/15	9/22	70	6	7	6	
7	Sands/Coal Creek	1080	9/15	9/22	375	4	5	4	No
8	Upper Big Creek [4]		9/23			4	5	5	No
9	Lower Big Creek[4]	1280		10/05	722	4	5	5	No
	Total				4610				

[1] Data collected for unnamed tributary that has a 6 inch stubble height standard.

[2] Exact records on the number of head in these two units and the on/off dates for the Twin Lakes unit were not recorded. The dates provided are when cattle entered the Twin Lakes unit and left the Mud Lake unit. The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the Mud Lake unit, and approximately 50% of the use occurring in the Twin Lakes unit.

[3] Exact records on the number of head and the on/off dates for these units were not recorded. The dates provided are when cattle entered the South Basin Creek unit and left the North Basin Creek unit. The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the South Wet Creek Basin unit and 50% of the use occurring in the North Wet Creek Basin Unit.

[4] Exact records on the number of head in these two units were not recorded. The dates provided are when cattle entered Upper Big Creek and left Lower Big Creek.

Table 2. Evaluation of livestock operations for the 2003 grazing season and recommended improvements for 2004 grazing season.

Order of Use	Unit Name	Amount of Available Forage Left Unused	Priority for Providing For Better Livestock Distribution	Things That Worked/Did Not Work	Recommended Improvements to Better Protect Resource. Utilize Forage, etc.
1	North Wet Creek Basin	Mod	Mod	• Water developments improved cattle distribution • Used the North and South units as one and got better distribution.	• Need consistent riding to keep cattle from congregating along riparian areas and make better utilization of uplands. • Elk used key areas late, was 6 inches when cattle left. • Develop spring exclosures. • During the fall cattle will naturally split into Little Lost and Big Lost groups. Run cattle in both Wet Creek Basin units at same time. • Ride daily to ensure unit is cleaned and all drift cattle are removed immediately from unit. • Permittees to maintain electric exclosure fence on Wet Basin Creek and ensure cattle don't get in.
2	South Wet Creek Basin	Low	Moderate	• Water developments improved cattle distribution • Used the North and South units as one and got better distribution.	• Need consistent riding to keep cattle from congregating along riparian areas and make better utilization of uplands. • Elk used key areas late, was 6 inches or better when cattle left. • Develop spring exclosures. • During the fall cattle will naturally split into Little Lost and Big Lost groups. Run cattle in both Wet Creek Basin units at same time. Remove cattle from each unit when trigger for that unit is met. • Move cattle when trigger is met and cattle are congregating along fence.
3	Mud Lake	Low	Low	• No water in Mud Lake, key area was dry. • Good placement of salt	• Move cattle when trigger is met and cattle are congregating along fence.

Order of Use	Unit Name	Amount of Available Forage Left Unused	Priority for Providing For Better Livestock Distribution	Things That Worked/Did Not Work	Recommended Improvements to Better Protect Resource. Utilize Forage, etc.
3	Twin Lakes	Low	Low	• Use in spring areas of Cave Gulch is causing erosion. • Spring development watered most of the cattle. • Electric fence worked great after better grounding and maintenance. • Twin Lakes were dry.	• Fence one spring in Cave Gulch. This will restore and protect spring and help provide for better cattle distribution. We will wait on development of lower spring. • Move when trigger is met and cattle are congregating along fence.
4	Southwest Pass Creek	Low	High	• Electric fence worked great. • Blue Jay Drift was some drift, need to look at moving fence farther up the canyon. • Electric fence between Private land and Narrows installed very low allowing cattle to drop into the area immediately above the narrows, creating a trap. Installed permanent jack leg fence. • Drift occurred when moving off the forest.	• Use 5” trigger to better ensure end of season stubble height of 4” is met/move when trigger is met • Monitor key area every other day • Maintain electric fences and thoroughly check charger before cattle come into unit. • Maintain Blue Jay Canyon drift fence.
5	North Pass Creek	Low	Moderate	• Good salting • Dirt water tank was cleaned and resulted in good forage use on east side of unit. • Cattle were moved when triggers were met. • Trailing on the road into Pine Creek was excessive, need to use wagon box canyon gate when moving into Pine Creek.	• Use half of the herd on each side of unit • Complete spring exclosures (Wagon Box and Telephone Canyon). • Monitor and move cattle when trigger is met
6	Pine Creek	Moderate	Moderate	• Key area was set up in unnamed tributary 6” stubble height • Exclosure will be taken out by FS when convenient.	• Carefully monitor summit. When cattle show up on summit move into next unit • Back ride to ensure cattle have been removed

Order of Use	Unit Name	Amount of Available Forage Left Unused	Priority for Providing For Better Livestock Distribution	Things That Worked/Did Not Work	Recommended Improvements to Better Protect Resource. Utilize Forage, etc.
	(Pine Creek Continued)			• Cattle were removed when triggers were met.	• Move when 7" trigger is met on Pine Creek and exclosure area. • Ensure fence between Hilts Creek and Pass Creek is put up prior to cattle entering Pine Creek Unit. • Complete spring exclosure.
7	Sands/Coal Creek	Low	Mod	• Unit was hard to clean, lots of back riding. • Salt placed away from stream. • Cattle were removed when triggers were met. • Cattle used the uplands good. • FS moved fence on Lower Coal Creek to include perennial portion of stream into the Pine Creek Unit.	• Water development up high. Look at availability of water in high springs and feasibility of installing trough. • Move cattle all at once when moving to Big Creek, drifting cattle was too hard to keep control of.
7	Upper Wet Creek	Low	Low	• Had some drift from Sands Creek Unit. • A few cattle got into exclosure. • Cattle removed quickly when notified.	• Only place a couple hundred head in this unit at any one time. • Move cattle when trigger is met • Additional back riding to ensure cattle do not come back into unit • FS will improve exclosure, then permittees will maintain.
8	Upper Big Creek	Mod	High	• Cattle were moved quickly when triggers were met. • Back riding helped to meet standards. • Massacre Creek trough was installed. Needs fence around spring source before turn on 2004 season.	• Ensure cattle do not get into exclosure. • Install Massacre Divide Spring exclosure and reinstall headbox before turn on 2004 season.
9	Lower Big Creek	High	High	• Left adequate amount of forage to meet standards, need to get more days. • Cattle were moved quickly when triggers were met.	• Need to maintain fence between BLM and FS boundary to prevent early use on FS. • Understand cattle will use this unit very quickly (See Lower Big Creek)

Table 3. Summary of implementation review and management action being taken in units where end of season stubble height standard was exceeded.

Unit	Was the stubble height standard exceeded?	Why was the stubble height standard exceeded?	How will the plan be revised to ensure the stubble height standard is not exceeded?	What was the extent of the overuse?	How can the resource damage caused by the overuse be restored?
Lower Big Creek	No				
Upper Big Creek	No				
Wet Creek	No				
Sands/Coal Creek	No				
Pine Creek	No				
North Pass Creek	No				
Southwest Pass Creek	No				
Twin Lakes	No				
Mud Lake	No				
South Wet Creek Basin	No				
North Wet Creek Basin	No				

Table 4. **2004 Annual Operating Instructions *Estimated 83 days with 1280 head. (All actions are permittees responsibility, unless otherwise noted)**

Order of Use	Unit Name	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
1	Lower Big Creek	4	6	• Maintain all unit boundary fences, place salt away from creeks • When moving cattle in from bottom cattle will stay in bottom of unit one day and then move into Upper Big Creek	• Monitor Upper Wet Creek to keep cattle from drifting into that unit • Keep cattle pushed to Upper Big Creek to allow for drifting back into Lower Big Creek. • Move all cattle out of both upper and lower Big Creek in an *estimated 15 days from entering either unit, or when triggers are met. • Back riding to ensure unit is clean
2	Upper Big Creek	4	6	• Maintain upper trough to standsrd before entering unit. • Maintain upper exclosure fence. • Install Massacre divide spring exclosure and reset headbox to standard before entering unit.	• Monitor Lower Wet Creek to keep cattle from drifting into that unit • Monitor Upper Big Creek to keep cattle from bunching up keep distributed in uplands and monitor the Wet Creek unit for drift. • Move all cattle out of both upper and lower Big Creek in an *estimated 15 days from entering either unit, or when trigger is met. • Back riding to ensure unit is clean
3	Sands/Coal Creek	4	5	• Place salt in uplands and complete fence maintenance.	• Monitor Big Creek and Upper Wet Creek to ensure cattle are not getting into those units • Move cattle out of Sands/Coal Creek an *estimated 7 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. • Place cattle in uplands immediately to reduce use on lower riparian areas.
3	Wet Creek	6	7	• Use upper portion of Wet Creek in conjunction with Sands/Coal Creek. • Monitor drift into upper wet creek before entering into unit.	• Monitor while in Big Creek, Lower Wet Creek and Pine Creek to ensure no drift into unit. • Closely monitor exclosure to ensure cattle don't get in. • Monitor key area and move cattle when trigger is met.

Order of Use	Unit Name	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
4	Pine Creek	6 (unnamed stream-called Pine Creek by permittees) 4 (Lower Wet Creek)	7 5	• FS will remove Aspen exclosure along main road. • Put up let down fence between Pass Creek and Hilts Creek	• Carefully monitor Pine Creek. When cattle show up on summit move into next unit. • Back ride regularly to ensure unit is cleared and cattle do not move back into unit • Move cattle out of Pine Creek an *estimated 8 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met.
5	North Pass Creek	4	5	• Maintain fences • Look at possibility of using electric fence in some areas • Install permanent spring exclosures to standard.	• Bring half of herd along each side of unit. • Move cattle out of North Pass Creek an *estimated 7 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. (*Total of an estimated 10 days in the entire Pass Creek Unit.) • Back riding to ensure unit is clean
8/9	Southwest Pass Creek	4	5	• Permittees ensure electric fence and charger is repaired and working • Permittees to install gate at fence between private land and narrows and complete construction prior to entering unit. • Ensure Blue Jay Canyon Drift Fence is up and gate is closed.	• Place cattle/salt high in unit • Monitor key area every other day • Ensure that sensitive areas along Pass Creek above Bear Creek are regularly ridden to prevent resource damage and decrease trailing. • When using CCC corrals at mouth of Pass Creek haul water for horses or lead horses to water instead of turning horses loose. • Move cattle out of Southwest Pass Creek an *estimated 3 days from entering unit. • Back riding to ensure unit is clean
6	Twin Lakes	4	6	• Install permanent spring exclosures to standard.	• Place 1/3 of the herd in Twin Lakes/Cave Gulch for an *estimated 4 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. • Back riding to ensure unit is clean

Order of Use	Unit Name	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
7	Mud Lake	4	5	• Permittees ensure electric fence and charger is repaired and working • Install permanent spring exclosures to standard.	• Place entire herd in Mud Lake Unit initially, after 4 days place 1/3 of herd in Twin Lakes Unit. **(***Total of an estimated 8 days in both Mud Lake and Twin Lake Units combined, or when trigger is met) • Back riding to ensure unit is clean
8	South Wet Creek Basin	4	5	• Permittees to install spring exclosures to standard. • Placement of salt and fence maintenance.	• Move cattle out of South Wet Creek Basin an *estimated 30 days from entering either units, or when trigger is met. • Back riding to ensure unit is clean
9	North Wet Creek Basin	4	5	• Permittees ensure exclosure fence is working • Install spring exclosures to standard. • Placement of salt and fence maintenance.	• Move cattle out of North Wet Creek Basin an *estimated 10-12 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. • Daily back riding to ensure unit is clean, while cattle are in South Wet Basin Unit.

***Estimated days in units are based on four years of drought. Remember these are only estimates to help meet triggers in units. If in any unit triggers are met earlier than these estimated dates, cattle need to be moved to next unit accordingly. In the same regard, if cattle are distributed and have not met triggers by the estimated date, these dates may be adjusted.**
***Please remember to notify your association president, Keith Waymire, or Carmela Romerio at the Forest Service with any adjustments or changes to your annual operating instructions.**

General Items To Be Completed Prior to the 2004 Grazing Season

1. Continue to work on communication system. .
2. Ensure riders, permittees, and Forest Service personnel:
    a. Are aware of need of need to complete accurate records
    b. Know where key areas are located
    c. Know when to measure stubble height
    d. Know how to measure stubble height
    e. Understand they have authority to move cattle to next unit
    f. Know to look for changes in cattle behavior (distribution, congregation, walking fences) as an indication of the time to move
3. Ensure fences are functional before cattle enter allotment and units
4. Install all Improvements in Basin Creek and Cave Gulch.

General Items To Be Completed During the 2004 Grazing Season

1. Ensure accurate records are kept
2. Ensure salt is placed off streams; at least ¼ mile when possible
3. Ensure units are regularly ridden with emphasis on streams
4. Ensure back riding occurs in all units

Recommended Developments to Improve Livestock Distribution in Order of Priority

1. Install Massacre Divide, South Basin Creek and North Basin Creek units and Pass Creek spring exclosure developments. Priority should be on the east side of Basin Creek and on the ridge between Wet Creek and Basin Creek.
2. Evaluate potential for water development on the North Pass Creek unit. Emphasis should be on east side of unit. Look at feasibility of extending a pipeline from existing trough on east side of unit. Look at potential for additional troughs on both sides of unit.
3. Evaluate springs high in Sands/Coal Creek unit for possible troughs
4. Maintain electric fence in the North Pass Creek unit.
5. **Permittees need to provide additional help to riders when moving from unit to unit to ensure units are being cleaned.**
6. **Remove Bulls in a timely manner after they have been effective.**

Recommended Developments to Protect/Restore Resource

1. See Items to be completed for 2004 grazing season.